

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 3 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 2, 4-15 and 18 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Personal Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Pham and Primary Examiner Garcia at the interview held November 2, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,475,475 to Kohtani et al. (Kohtani). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that Kohtani does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, Kohtani does not disclose a method of forming an output image in an image forming system, comprising instructing the system to duplicate an original portion of an input document, producing image data corresponding to the original portion of the input document, forming a duplicate image of the original portion of the input document, and reproducing the duplicate image a selected number of times on a printing medium, as recited in amended claim 1.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not disclose a method of forming an output image in an image forming system, comprising *inter alia*, ... obtaining input image data relating to an original portion of an input image and based at least partially on the instructions, and forming the output image comprising the original portion of the input image replicated one or more times on a single printing medium as directed by the instructions, as recited in claim 5, or an image forming system comprising *inter alia*, a control stage for

selecting at least an original portion of the input image and replicating the original portion a predetermined number of times to form an output image, as recited in claim 14.

As discussed during the interview, Applicants submit that Kohtani only discloses that which is known and described as known in the application, i.e., in a "N-up" type system, in that Kohtani discloses the entire surface of the input document is scanned, and the scanned image is reduced to enable fitting a predetermined number of copies of the entire document onto a single output paper.

For example, Kohtani discloses an image forming apparatus which can detect the number of original images to be formed on a single recording sheet in accordance with a designated copying magnification (col. 1, lines 57-60). In Kohtani, a latent image is formed through an image forming process, and is developed, fixed and delivered. Through these operations, the images of the originals, which images are equally reduced according to the number of read originals, can be formed on a single transfer sheet. Fig. 6 shows four individual complete images being formed in their entirety on a single transfer sheet. In the case of nine originals or sixteen originals, a plurality of originals can be similarly formed on a single recording sheet by changing the reduction magnification. Thus, images are automatically reduced in size in accordance with the number of originals input and are formed on a single transfer sheet (col. 6, lines 10-35).

In contrast to the disclosure of Kohtani, the subject matter of the invention includes an image multiplier feature that enables a user to submit an image, scanned or otherwise, and position that image to result in an output image containing repeated multiple copies of the original image on a single printing medium. This image multiplier feature is different from a feature known to those of ordinary skill in the art as the "N-up" because it scans only a predetermined portion of an input document containing the image and places a predetermined number of copies of the image on a single output paper. That specific portion of the input

document where the input image resides forms the input image data and is the only portion that is reproduced on a subsequent output document.

Thus, as discussed and agreed during the interview, Kohtani fails to disclose instructing the image forming system to duplicate an original portion of an input document, forming a duplicate image of the original portion of the input document, and reproducing the duplicate image a selected number of times on a printing medium. In other words, while Kohtani scans the entire document and reduces its magnification so as to fit multiple images on a single sheet, the subject matter of the recited claims duplicates an original portion of the document and reproduces that duplicate image a selected number of times without any magnification or reduction step taking place. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kohtani in view of U.S. Patent 6,020,094 to Arai et al. (Arai).

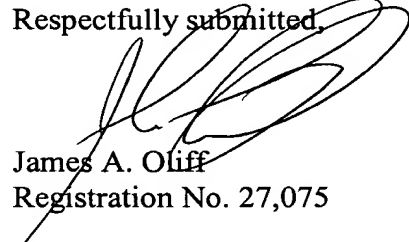
Applicants assert that claims 3 and 7 are allowable for at least their dependency on their respective base claims for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Furthermore, as Arai does not overcome the deficiencies of Kohtani discussed above, Applicants request the rejection of claims 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: November 3, 2004

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